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Economic and Social Council

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 16 July 2014

[on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2014/30)]

2014/19. Rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law,

Reaffirming also its commitment to the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels,[1]

Strongly determined to reinvigorate political will and to raise the level of the international community's commitment to moving the sustainable development agenda forward, through the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming the necessity of respecting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in the prevention of crime and the administration of and access to justice, including criminal justice,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",[2] and noting the recommendations of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda,[3]

Noting the activity of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,

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* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

[1] General Assembly resolution 67/1.

[2] A/68/202 and Corr.1.

[3] See A/67/890, annex.

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Noting also the thematic and national consultations on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda organized by the United Nations Development Group in many countries,

Reiterating that the rule of law and development are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, all of which in turn reinforce the rule of law,

Reiterating also that transnational crime must be addressed with full respect for the principles of the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States, and in accordance with the rule of law, as part of a comprehensive response to promote durable solutions through the promotion of human rights and more equitable socioeconomic conditions, and in that regard stressing again the importance of encouraging Member States to develop, as appropriate, comprehensive crime prevention policies based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime and to address such factors in a holistic manner, while emphasizing that crime prevention should be an integral element of strategies to foster social and economic development in all States,

Stressing the importance of a well-functioning, efficient, fair, effective and humane criminal justice system as the basis for a successful strategy against transnational organized crime, corruption, terrorism, drug trafficking and other forms of trafficking,

Recalling its resolution 67/186 of 20 December 2012, entitled "Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, particularly in the areas related to the United Nations system-wide approach to fighting transnational organized crime and drug trafficking", and its resolution 68/188 of 18 December 2013, entitled "The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",

Acknowledging the centrality of crime prevention and the criminal justice system to the rule of law, and also acknowledging that long-term sustainable economic and social development and the establishment of a functioning, efficient, effective and humane criminal justice system have a positive influence on each other, as stated in the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, of 2010,[4]

Reaffirming the importance of promoting the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[5] the United Nations Convention against Corruption[6] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[7]

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[4] General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

[6] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[7] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

Reaffirming also the importance of relevant international anti-terrorism instruments, as appropriate, and drawing on the existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Recalling its resolution 63/23 of 17 November 2008, entitled "Promoting development through the reduction and prevention of armed violence",

Concerned about the serious threat that violence related to transnational organized crime poses to development and the rule of law, security and well-being of communities, hindering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by reducing national income and productivity, diverting investment and rolling back hard-won development gains, and recognizing that comprehensive crime prevention strategies can contribute to addressing those challenges effectively,

Recognizing the importance of ensuring that women and girls, on the basis of gender equality, fully enjoy the benefits of the rule of law, and committed to using law to uphold equal rights and ensure their full and equal participation,

Welcoming the conference entitled "Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law", hosted by the Government of Thailand in Bangkok on 15 November 2013, which discussed the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice as a substantive contribution to the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda,

Noting the publication of the study paper entitled "Accounting for security and justice in the post-2015 development agenda" by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2013,

Noting also the publication of the "Global Study on Homicide 2013: Trends, Contexts, Data" by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Taking into consideration that the main theme of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha in 2015, will be "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation",

Convinced that respect for and promotion of the rule of law, both nationally and internationally, are essential elements in addressing and preventing transnational organized crime and corruption, and noting that the rule of law requires strong and efficient justice sector coordination, as well as effective inter-agency cooperation and coordination with other relevant United Nations offices and activities,

1. *Recognizes* the cross-cutting nature of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and development, and recommends that such linkages and interrelationships be properly addressed and further elaborated;

2. *Underscores* that the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda should take into account respect for and promotion of the rule of law and that crime prevention and criminal justice have an important role in that regard, giving due consideration to the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in order to channel, as appropriate, its contribution to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, in close consultation with all relevant stakeholders;

3. *Encourages* Member States, in their deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda, to give due consideration to the rule of law, crime

prevention and criminal justice, while promoting universal respect for human rights and strengthening relevant national institutions;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as a member of the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, to continue to contribute analytical inputs and expertise to the work of the Task Team and to report to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session on the results of this work;

5. *Stresses* the importance of a comprehensive approach to transitional justice, incorporating the wide range of judicial and non-judicial measures to ensure accountability and promote reconciliation while protecting the rights of victims of crime and of abuse of power, drawing on the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with its mandates, to support criminal justice reforms and strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels;

6. *Also stresses* the need for government institutions, the judicial system and the legislative system to be gender-sensitive and for the continued promotion of the full participation of women in such institutions;

7. *Further stresses* the importance of promoting the design and implementation of national and regional strategies and policies, as appropriate, on the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice as an effective and coordinated response to transnational organized crime, particularly in connection with new and emerging forms of transnational organized crime;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in developing comprehensive crime prevention strategies, to address violence related to transnational organized crime, including urban crime, and to continue to support the exchange of expertise and good practices, with the support of civil society, as appropriate;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assist Member States in improving systems for collecting and analysing data on crime prevention and criminal justice at all levels, where necessary, including gender-specific data, in order to contribute, where appropriate, to the post-2015 development agenda;

10. *Invites* the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to continue to include in their work programmes the issues of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as to consider exploring the challenges posed by violence related to transnational organized crime, and encourages them to develop appropriate training material;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, through the Commission, to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

45th plenary meeting
16 July 2014